

Steve Wynn back in town with casino sketch

Written by Administrator

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The Bay State casino race will get a turbo boost today when Wynn Resorts representatives unveil an artist's rendering of their proposed Everett gambling palace to build momentum for their bid.

"They hadn't planned to show their hand yet, but after a very successful town hall meeting last week, Steve Wynn wanted to let Everett residents see what he was working on," local Wynn spokesman Doug Bailey said.

During a conference call last week, Everett residents told the casino magnate they were anxious to see what his resort casino would look like.

Wynn, whose first attempt at a casino in Foxboro with partner Robert Kraft failed to win over residents, is competing with Suffolk Downs and its partner Caesars Entertainment, and David Nunes' Crossroads Massachusetts LLC, working with Foxwoods, for the sole Eastern Massachusetts license.

The Gaming Commission can award licenses for up to three casinos and one slots parlor.

Tomorrow, the commission is set to approve the regulations and evaluation criteria that will guide its decision as it awards licenses.

The four proposed criteria are: a developer's finances; the project's job-creation potential; the casino's design; and mitigation of adverse impacts such as traffic, commission spokeswoman Elaine Driscoll said.

Chairman Stephen Crosby said commission members weren't aware that Wynn Resorts was coming to town today.

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“We’re not involved at the site level yet,” he said.

Crosby added that the commission is still trying to get complete and accurate information from all 11 bidders for the state’s gaming licenses so it can complete background checks.

“Many of the host communities would like to hold their referendums on June 25, the date of the Senate special election primary, to save money and maximize turnout,” Crosby said. “But since we have a rule that says you can’t have a referendum until the qualifiers are checked, we need our applicants to show a sense of urgency to make that possible.”

Bailey said Wynn, who faces opposition from Suffolk Downs supporter Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, will be coming to Everett next month with a large-scale model of his proposed casino.

“It’s big. I don’t even know how we’re going to get it here,” Bailey added.

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